



Economic and Social Council

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United Nations Forum on Forests

Second session

San José, Costa Rica, 4-15 March 2002

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Common items for each session: multi-stakeholder dialogue

Multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable forest management

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1/1, the United Nations Forum on Forests stressed the importance of involvement by major groups as identified in Agenda 21 in the work of the Forum, and noted the value of inputs from major groups associated with forest management at the national, regional and global levels.¹

2. It was also decided that multi-stakeholder dialogues are to be held at each session, and the Forum invited relevant stakeholders, in accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, paragraph 4 (c), to contribute to discussions in each session, including case study experience, and to encourage a balanced stakeholder participation of developed and developing countries so as to give meaningful inputs, inter alia, to the implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals for action and the intergovernmental forest policy dialogue.

3. The Forum also stressed that concrete activities should be undertaken to fulfil its principal functions, in particular the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action at the national, regional and global levels.

4. At the second session of the Forum, the multi-stakeholder dialogue will engage five key stakeholders, namely, representatives of: (a) forest-related non-governmental organizations; (b) indigenous people; (c) scientific and technological communities working in forest-related fields; (d) business and industry related to forests; and (e) forest owners. The stakeholders' delegations are expected to be formed on the basis of gender and geographical balance, ensuring the representation of stakeholders from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

5. The current multi-stakeholder dialogue has been prepared in cooperation with network organizations from the five major group sectors noted above. Key organizations of the major groups were contacted, and those organizations were in turn requested to collaborate with their partners in the community of their major group. The key organizations contacted were: (a) for the forest-related NGOs, the Global Forest Policy Project, Greenpeace International, Sobrevivencia and the World Rainforest Movement; (b) for the indigenous people major group, the Asociación Napguana, the Indigenous Peoples Organization and the Forest Peoples Programme; (c) for the scientific and technological community, the European Forestry Institute, the International Union of

* E/CN.18/2002/1.



Forestry Research Organizations, the World Conservation Union and the World Resources Institute; (d) for business and industry, the Confederation of European Paper Industries, the International Forum of Forests and Paper Associations and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development; (e) for forest owners, the Confédération européenne des propriétaires forestiers and the Red de Reservas Privadas.

6. Those key organizations facilitated the preparation of background documents, which will be issued as addenda to the present note, and consulted with their networks to identify their representatives and prepare them to participate in the dialogue.

7. The Bureau of the Forum for its second session decided on the theme "Review of progress in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action" as the theme of the multi-stakeholder dialogue session. It is understood that the review of the progress of implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action will be within the context of elements of the second session of the Forum. The dialogue will consist of two sessions, at which the major groups will make short presentations on their contributions to the implementation of the proposals for action and related key issues. Some government delegations will also comment on the progress of implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. The sessions will also consist of an open dialogue moderated by the Chairman of the Forum, which will effectively engage major groups and Governments in a genuine dialogue on specific issues with regard to implementation of the proposals for action.

8. The outcome of the multi-stakeholder dialogue will be a Chairman's summary, which will be included in the final report of the Forum on its second session. In addition, many proposals made and discussed in the multi-stakeholder segment will be presented to the Forum and taken into careful consideration in the negotiated decision of the Forum on the topic of the dialogue. Direct contributions by major groups on the decisions and work of the Forum will also be invited.

9. The multi-stakeholder dialogues have been recognized as an efficient and effective way to involve major groups in assessing progress on a particular topic being discussed in an intergovernmental body, building consensus on possible future actions and generating new partnerships. The multi-stakeholder dialogue is

expected to promote the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action for sustainable forest management.

Notes

- ¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 22 (E/2001/42/Rev.1)*, part two, chap. I, sect. B, resolution 1/1, sect. E.

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Items 5 and 6 of the provisional agenda*

High-level ministerial segment

**Ministerial dialogue with heads of member organizations
of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests**

**Main issues for consideration at the high-level
ministerial segment****Note by the Secretariat**

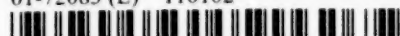
1. In its resolution 1/1, entitled "Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2001-2005", the Forum recognized that clear strategic direction and strong political commitment to sustainable forest management are key to the successful fulfilment of every aspect of its mandate.¹

2. The Forum also decided that, inter alia, an important focus of its first high-level ministerial segment would be to endorse the plan of action adopted in its resolution 1/2² as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, through the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit. It also noted that the first ministerial segment of the Forum would provide an opportunity for countries to declare their commitment to country goals and strategies for implementing the proposals for action of the

Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/
Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF).

3. As part of the multi-year programme of work of the Forum, at its second session the Forum will focus on the following elements: (a) combating deforestation and forest degradation; (b) forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems; (c) rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover; (d) rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests; and (e) concepts, terminology and definitions. In addition, means of implementation, finance, transfer of environmentally sound technology and capacity-building will be addressed in the context of the elements noted above. The Forum will also consider the common items that are to be addressed at each session: multi-stakeholder dialogue; enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination,

* E/CN.18/2002/1.



inter alia, with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; country experience and lessons learned; emerging issues relevant to country implementation; intersessional work; monitoring, assessment and reporting; promoting public participation; national forest programmes; trade; and enabling environment.

4. As part of the high-level segment, a ministerial dialogue with heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests will be held. Taking into careful consideration the views of the Bureau of the Forum at its second session and member organizations of the Partnership, it is proposed that the ministerial dialogue focus on the following five critical issues:

- Repositioning of forests on the national and international political agenda by linking forests to economic and human development and poverty eradication;
- Financing for sustainable forest management;
- Cross-sectoral harmonization at the national, regional and global levels, including fostering synergies between forest-related instruments and organizations;
- Conservation, protection and use of forests;
- Role and commitment of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

5. It is also proposed that the ministerial dialogue highlight aspects of law enforcement and good governance in the context of the five critical issues mentioned above.

6. Those issues may continue to be considered during the session for deliberations among ministers; the deliberations are also expected to provide political commitments to the United Nations Forum on Forests process by endorsing its plan of action, as well as a decision on a ministerial message to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and commitments for the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, including encouragement to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support the activities of the Forum.

7. In the ministerial message to the Summit, ministers may wish to consider the repositioning of forests on the international political and policy agenda by highlighting the role of forests in sustainable

livelihoods, poverty eradication and economic and human development; the significant progress achieved in the development and implementation of international forest policy since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; forests as a success story to be showcased at the Summit; the need to strengthen political commitment and international cooperation in implementing agreed policies, notably the IPF/IFF proposals for action; the need to rehabilitate and restore degraded forests; and the need to resolve outstanding issues on forests.

8. Ministers may wish to consider that a major challenge ahead is to secure political support for the United Nations Forum on Forests process and for initiatives for action to implement Forum activities. In that regard, they may wish to provide concrete guidance to all Governments, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other forest-related international organizations and instruments and major groups, with the aim of further promoting dialogue, strengthening commitments and enhancing partnerships in connection with implementation of all Forum activities. In particular, ministers may wish to state that commitments and actions related to forests should take into account the IPF/IFF proposals for action, the implementation of the plan of action of the Forum and the outcomes and decisions of the three ad hoc expert groups that are to be convened to address the issues of: (a) approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting; (b) the finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; and (c) consideration, with a view to recommending, of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests.

9. It should also be noted that the next high-level ministerial segment will take place at the fifth session of the Forum, at which time the Forum will undertake: (a) a review of progress and consideration of future actions; (b) consideration, with a view to recommending to the Economic and Social Council and through it to the General Assembly, of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests; and (c) a review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests established in accordance with Council resolution 2000/35. Ministers may wish to provide guidance in that regard.

Notes

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 22 (E/2001/42/Rev.1)*, part two, chap. I, sect. B, resolution 1/1, sect. C.

² *Ibid.*, resolution 1/2, annex.